

REMARKS

Claims 32-48, 50-56, 58-63, 65, and 67-68 are pending in the application. Claims 32-48, 50-56, 58-63, 65 and 67 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationship of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. Claim 68 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. Claim 68 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claim 68 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,457,747 to Drexler in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,280,527 to Gullman et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,719,950 to Osten et al.

Reconsideration is requested. The rejections are traversed. No new matter is added. Claim 32 is amended. Claim 68 is canceled to expedite allowance of the remaining claims, without prejudice to claim 68 being pursued in a later application. Claims 32-48, 50-56, 58-63, 65, and 67 remain in the case for consideration.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2

Claim 32 is amended to explicitly recite the cooperative relationship of the elements the Examiner believes were not related. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 of claims 32-48, 50-56, 58-63, 65, and 67.

Claim 68 is canceled, therefore the rejection of claim 68 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 is rendered moot. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 of claim 68.

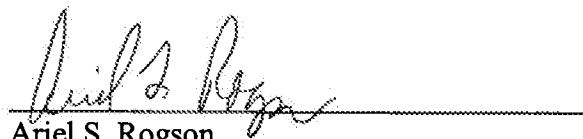
REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

While the Applicant cancels claim 68 without prejudice to pursuing claim 68 in another application, the Applicant believes the rejection of claim 68 is without merit and is not supported by statute, case law, or regulations. Further, the Applicant believes there is considerable history supporting the inclusion of "if" conditions in claims to inventions that include computer software.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 32-48, 50-56, 58-63, 65, and 67 of the application as amended is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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